

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable and that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, claims 2, 3, and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent.

Claim Amendments

Claim 4, indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter, has been amended to be in independent form. Thus, claim 4, as amended, is allowable.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

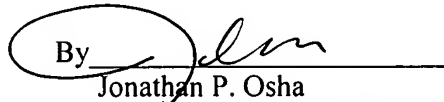
Claims 2, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,064,834 issued to Fukuda *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,483,284 issued to Ishiguro *et al.* Claims 2, 3, and 5 have been cancelled by way of this reply. Thus, the rejection with respect to these claims is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/042001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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